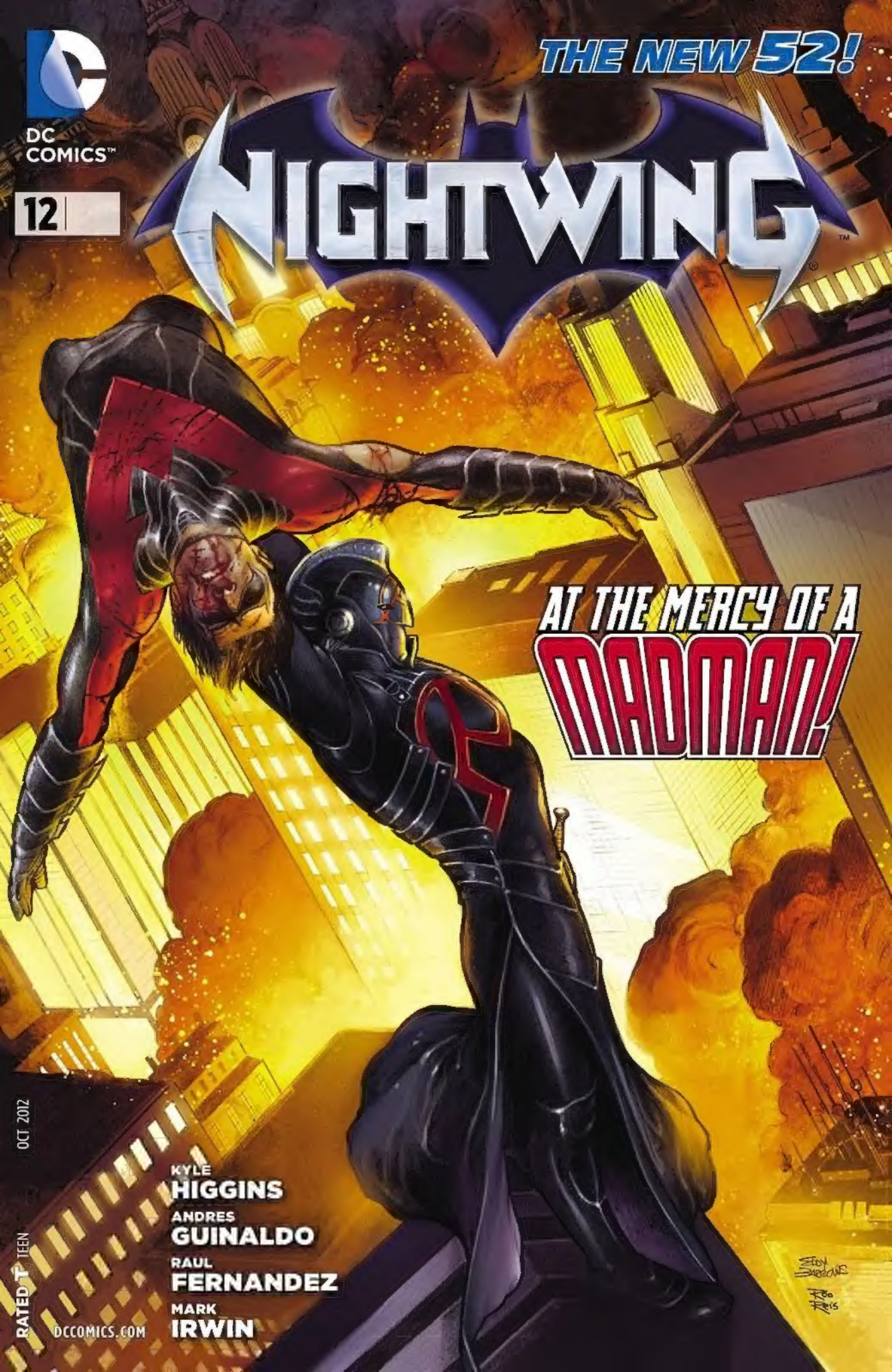

THE NEW 52!
DC COMICS™
12
NIGHTWING
AT THE MERCY OF A MADMAN!
OCT 2012
KYLE HIGGINS
ANDRES GUINALDO
RAUL FERNANDEZ
MARK IRWIN
RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM

Gotham City Police Dispatch Transcript--15 August, 22:06
"All available units, officer needs assistance. Industrial complex in the 61st block of Cass Avenue.
"Multiple homicides reported.
"Victims believed to be members of radical group **'The Republic of Tomorrow.'**
"Proceed with **extreme caution.**"
INSIDE OUT
KYLE HIGGINS-WRITER
ANDRES GUINALDO-PENCILS
RAUL FERNANDEZ & MARK IRWIN-INKS
ROD REIS-COLORS DEZI SIENTY-LETTERS
BARROWS & REIS - COVER
KATIE KUBERT-ASSISTANT EDITOR
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM-EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY
MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ
The call went out from dispatch an hour ago.
Police response time was just under three minutes.
If I had been on the right side of the river, I could have been there in **two.**
Instead, I'm on the outside looking in.

To be fair, it's been that way since the beginning.
Since one of my escrima sticks was used to murder Logan and Miles Strayhorn.
Since those brothers turned out to be prominent members of the Republic of Tomorrow...
...whose leader, Paragon, wants to rid Gotham of "false idols" like me.
Add in Detective Travis Nie and all the signs that point to him framing me for the murders...

...and a crime scene featuring eight Republic members' bodies is the last place I should be.
Can't worry about that now, though.
I'M HEADING TOPSIDE. YOU GOOD DOWN HERE, DET. BROOK?
ALL GOOD.
IT'S PARAGON.
WHAT THE--
SORRY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME HERE, NIE.
PARAGON MURDERED THE STRAYHORNS AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THIS PLACE--
--HE'S STARTED TARGETING THE REST OF HIS GROUP.
I KNOW.
HE SHOWED UP IN MY APARTMENT TWO HOURS AGO TO TELL US ABOUT THIS PLACE. THEN HE FLED.
WAIT...WHAT? WHY WOULD HE WANT PEOPLE--
OH, NO.
FOOM

NOT PEOPLE, NIGHTWING. JUST YOU.
KA-KOOM
ARH!

NO!
HOLD ON! I'M--
HRK!
GOING TO LET THEM SCURRY AWAY. THEY'VE ALREADY *SERVED* THEIR PURPOSE.
THEY BROUGHT *YOU* HERE.
A CRIME SCENE FILLED WITH MY FOLLOWERS...I ASSUMED YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO *RESIST.*
BUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS ONLY FOR *US.* NO POLICE, NO GROUPS.
JUST ME *SLITTING YOUR THROAT.* QUIETLY. *INTIMATELY.* THE WAY IT WAS ALWAYS *MEANT*--
KRAK
ARH!
YEAH...
...I DON'T *THINK* SO.
FOOM
FOOM

IT'S NOT...=>UHN<= MOVING!
DISPATCH SAYS THEY'RE SENDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT--THEY'RE GOING TO PRY US OUT!
BY THAT TIME =>KOFF KOFF<= PARAGON =>KOFF<= WILL BE GONE.
I SEE THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYE, TRAVIS. DON'T DO SOMETHING STUPID HERE.
THERE'S AN ACCESS PIPE JUST PAST THE BLOCKAGE. IF I CAN GET THROUGH, I CAN MAKE IT OUT.
TRAVIS, THIS IS--
TELL DISPATCH TO SEND A GROUP TO THE SHORE, WHERE THE DRAINAGE PIPES END. I'LL MEET 'EM THERE.
THE GUY CAME INTO MY HOUSE, BROOK.
I'M NOT SITTING HERE IN THE DARK WHILE SOMEONE ELSE TAKES HIM DOWN.
I'M NOT GONNA BE ON THE OUTSIDE ON THIS ONE. NOT AGAIN.
God, I hate small spaces.

No room to move. Everything's in too tight--
ARH!
I LIKE THAT YOU FINALLY UPGRADED YOUR ESCRIMA STICKS.
ELECTRODE TIPS OPERATING IN A "DRIVE STUN" MODE--MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE, AREN'T THEY?
Right through the armor. Damn it. Leg's going numb.
Keep him talking.
Buy some time. Get the feeling back in the leg.
YEAH, WELL, YOU SEEMED TO DO FINE WITH AN OLD ONE, DIDN'T YOU?
AH, SO...YOU KNOW.
OF COURSE I KNOW. I ONLY WISH...
"...I WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED THE STRAYHORNS SOONER.
"BUT WITH THE WAY EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST...
BOOM
"...I REALLY ONLY REMEMBERED THE CAR."
AS SEEN IN NIGHTWING #2. --B.C.
I HAVE TO ADMIT-- I WAS SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T PUT IT TOGETHER FASTER.
ARH!
AFTER ALL...

KSSSH
"...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED US."
"SO...YOU WERE THE THIRD PERSON IN THE CAR?
"HOW LONG AFTER DID THE STRAYHORNS DECIDE THEY WANTED OUT? WEEKS? DAYS?
"IT GNAWED AT THEM, DIDN'T IT? IT HAD TO. THEY KEPT MY ESCRIMA STICK."
THEY STARTED SECOND-GUESSING BEING IN A GROUP THAT HATED SOMEONE WHO SAVED THEIR LIVES, DIDN'T THEY?
WHICH IS WHY...
"...THEY REMOVED THEIR REPUBLIC TATTOOS."

ARGH!
THE REST =EHN= WRITES ITSELF.
"YOU WERE ALL FRIENDS--THAT'S WHY YOU WERE IN THE CAR TOGETHER IN THE FIRST PLACE.
"BUT IF THEY LEFT THE 'MOVEMENT,' IT'D BE A SIGN OF WEAKNESS.
"EVERYTHING WOULD FALL APART.
"SO YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO."
THEN YOU SCORCHED THEIR ARMS TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE I KILLED THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE IN THE REPUBLIC.
YOU TURNED THE WHOLE THING INTO A RALLYING CRY.
BUT THE TRUTH IS...

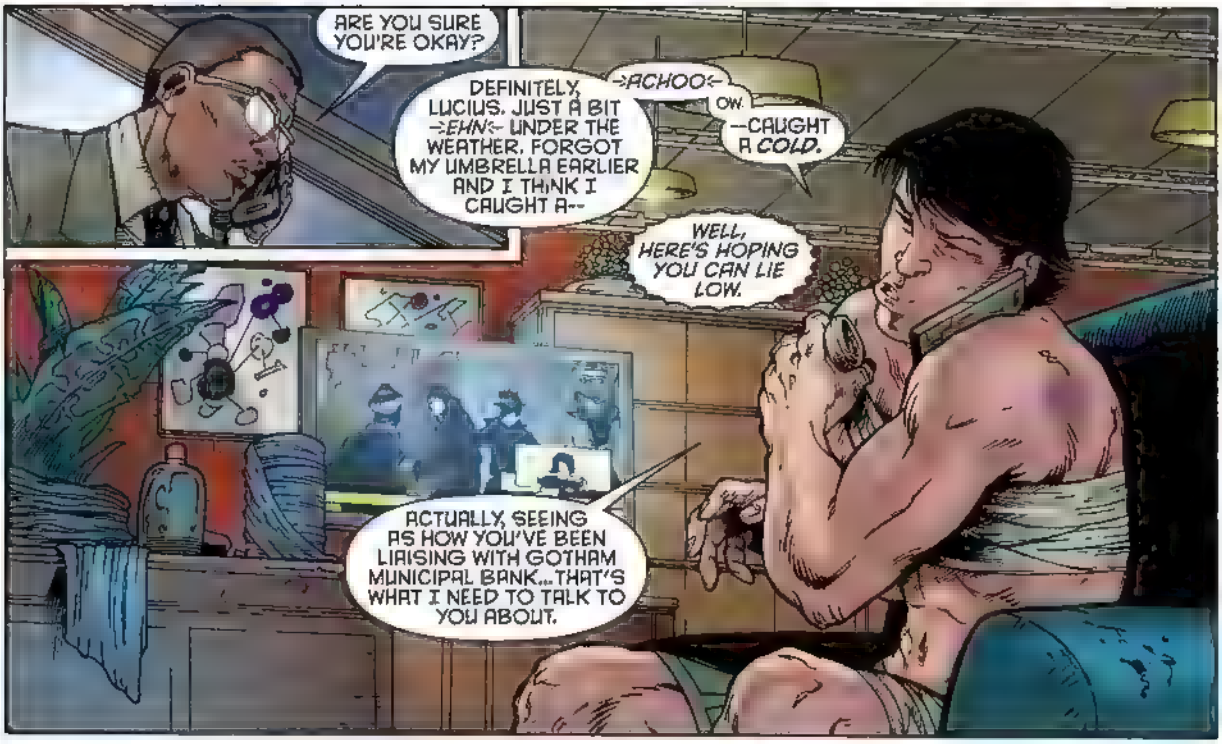
...YOU'RE NOT A "PARAGON" OF ANYTHING.
CLEVER...SO VERY, VERY CLEVER.
UGH!
UHNN...
Just breathe, Dick...just--
YOU KNOW, IN BETWEEN MASTERING THERMODYNAMICS AND BUILDING A REACTOR BEFORE THE AGE OF SIXTEEN, I DESIGNED THE ROTATING PLASMA CORES THAT POWER THESE BLADES OF MINE.
THEIR CIRCULAR SHAPE REPRESENTS WHAT I'VE BEEN STRIVING FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE.
ACH!
PERFECTION.
GHHH

I TOOK OVER THE GROUP BECAUSE THE STRAYHORNS WERE WEAK. BECAUSE, AFTER YOU SAVED US, THEY WEREN'T WILLING TO DO WHAT WAS *NECESSARY*. THEY WEREN'T WILLING TO *BECOME* WHAT WAS NECESSARY.
AFTER ALL, IF YOU WANT TO *DESTROY* A FALSE IDOL...
...WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO *BECOME* ONE?
=GRRRG=
WE'RE INTERTWINED, YOU AND I. TWO CHILDREN OF GOTHAM...FIGHTING FOR WHAT WE THINK THE CITY NEEDS. IN SOME WAYS...I *ADMIRE* YOU FOR IT.
=GASP=
WHICH IS WHY *I* HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO *KILL* YOU.
=KOFF= =KOFF=
YOU DIDN'T...SAY PLEASE...

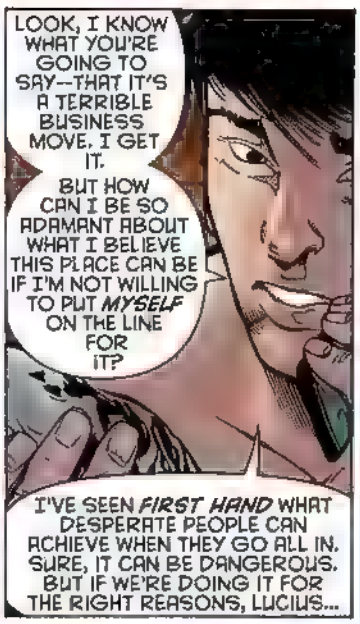
NO--
=KOFF=
=KOFF=
I'M ONLY GONNA SAY THIS ONCE...

...HANDS ON YOUR HEAD! NOW!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SMART ENOUGH TO RUN WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE, DETECTIVE.
NOW YOU'RE MAKING THIS DIFFICULT.
I SAID HANDS ON YOUR HEAD! BOTH OF YOU!
UNLESS YOU ALL WANT TO DIE HERE, TONIGHT, TURN AND LEAVE--NOW!
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!
TAKE A DEEP BREATH, DETECTIVE...THIS IS GOING TO BE OVER FAST FOR--
FOOOM

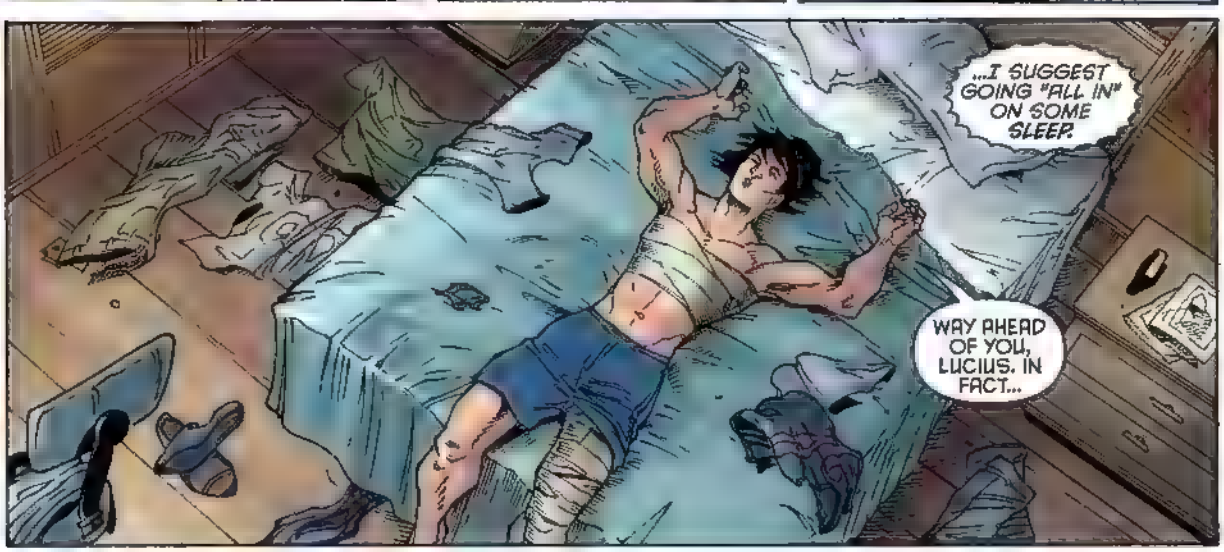
AND I THOUGHT I WAS A TALKER. GEEZ.
YARHHHH!!
SKZZZT
DOWN! PUT IT DOWN!
WE'RE GOOD...WE'RE ALL GOOD HERE.
DROP THE WEAPON!
GHHHH... GHHH...
DID EVERYONE GET OUT OF THE TUNNELS?
GOOD. LISTEN, NIE...
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S PULLING THE REST OUT NOW. THEY'RE GOING TO BE FINE.
YOU SHOULD LEAVE. BEFORE THAT CUT GETS ANY WORSE.
It's a small gesture to let me slip away.
But I'll take it.
After all, sometimes it's the gesture that makes all the difference.
"YOU SOUND TERRIBLE, DICK."


ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
DEFINITELY, LUCIUS. JUST A BIT =EHN=- UNDER THE WEATHER. FORGOT MY UMBRELLA EARLIER AND I THINK I CAUGHT A--
=ACHOO=
OW.
--CAUGHT A COLD.
WELL, HERE'S HOPING YOU CAN LIE LOW.
ACTUALLY, SEEING AS HOW YOU'VE BEEN LIAISING WITH GOTHAM MUNICIPAL BANK... THAT'S WHAT I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

THE BANK HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE RISK MY INVOLVEMENT CREATES, SO LET'S MINIMIZE THAT RISK.
HOW SO?
I WANT TO PUT EVERY CENT OF MY TRUST FUND TO BUY AMUSEMENT MILE.*
DICK...
*AMUSEMENT MILE IS GOTHAM'S ABANDONED AMUSEMENT PARK AREA. --B.C


LOOK, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY--THAT IT'S A TERRIBLE BUSINESS MOVE. I GET IT.
BUT HOW CAN I BE SO ADAMANT ABOUT WHAT I BELIEVE THIS PLACE CAN BE IF I'M NOT WILLING TO PUT MYSELF ON THE LINE FOR IT?
I'VE SEEN FIRST HAND WHAT DESPERATE PEOPLE CAN ACHIEVE WHEN THEY GO ALL IN. SURE, IT CAN BE DANGEROUS. BUT IF WE'RE DOING IT FOR THE RIGHT REASONS, LUCIUS...

...IT CAN ALSO BE INSPIRING.
I CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES THAT THEY'LL GO FOR IT, DICK...BUT I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
THANK YOU.
IN THE MEANTIME...


...I SUGGEST GOING "ALL IN" ON SOME SLEEP.
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, LUCIUS. IN FACT...

THE ICEBERG CASINO...
"...I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING THAT'D GET ME OUT OF BED RIGHT NOW."
THIS PENGUIN PARTY BETTER BE HUGE, MISTER C.
HAVE YOU MET OSWALD? TRUST ME--TONIGHT SHALL BE ONE FOR THE AGES, MY DEAR.
EUGENE!
IF YOU VALUE YOUR ARMS, YOU'LL HAVE THOSE BOXES LOADED ON THE BOAT IN THE NEXT THREE MINUTES.
DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, EUGENE?
YUH--YES SIR, MR. COBBLEPOT...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, OSWALD?
HM. MR. COMBUSTIBLE. AS CURIOUS AS YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS AFTER OUR LAST BIT OF BUSINESS, YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MY LACK OF CONTEMPT...
"...SOMEONE JUST WIPED OUT THE LARGEST CONTINGENT OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN PHILADELPHIA."
AND IT'S RUMORED THE KILLER IS COMING TO GOTHAM NEXT.
UNLIKE THOSE DIMWITS IN PHILLY, I WON'T BE CAUGHT ILL PREPARED.
OH, OSWALD... YOU'RE SCARED OF A "MOB KILLER"? REALLY?
IT'S NOT A MOB KILLER.
IT'S LADY SHIVA.
COME, GIRLS. ALLOW US TO FIND BETTER ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TONIGHT.
WHAT? WHERE?
ANYWHERE BUT GOTHAM.

SONIA BRANCH'S APARTMENT.
WOULD IT BE TOO MUCH TO HOPE...
...THAT THE OTHER DAY WAS JUST A BAD DREAM?
HMM.
LISTEN, SONIA... I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT WHAT I SAID TO YOU.
YOU WERE BEING *STRAIGHT* WITH ME ABOUT THE BANK, AND *I'M* THE ONE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR IT. AND FOR WHAT I SAID, I'M REALLY SORRY.
I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS... BOTH IN COMING HERE, AS WELL AS WITH AMUSEMENT MILE.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
LUCIUS FOX SPOKE WITH YOUR BOARD MEMBERS THIS MORNING. IF I PUT IN THE MAJORITY OF THE FUNDING MYSELF, AND COVER THE INSURANCE, THE BANK WILL MATCH--
DON'T DO THAT, DICK.
LOOK, I KNOW, IT'S RISKY FOR ME, BUT--
I *LIED*.
YOU *LIED*?

THOSE THINGS YOU SAID BEFORE—ABOUT ME TURNING DOWN THE BANK LOAN BECAUSE OF MY FATHER... YOU WERE RIGHT.
AFTER HE KILLED YOUR PARENTS, I DID EVERYTHING I *COULD* TO GET AWAY FROM HIM. HELL, I EVEN CHANGED MY *NAME.*
BUT NOW, WHEN I SEE *YOU*... IT'S A REMINDER OF THE LIFE I ESCAPED. THE LIFE I DON'T WANT TO EVEN *THINK* ABOUT. "TONY ZUCCO'S LITTLE GIRL."
I CAN'T *DO* IT, DICK.
YOUR BOARD ALREADY *APPROVED* IT, SONIA. WE'RE *STUCK* TOGETHER.
THEN I GUESS WE HAVE TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
WELL, *THIS* SHOULD BE INTERESTING...
NEXT: ISSUE #0!
THE ORIGIN OF DICK GRAYSON...
AND BATMAN'S FIRST DEFEAT!

FROM THE WRITER OF
ALL-STAR SUPERMAN & JLA

GRANT MORRISON

with ANDY KUBERT

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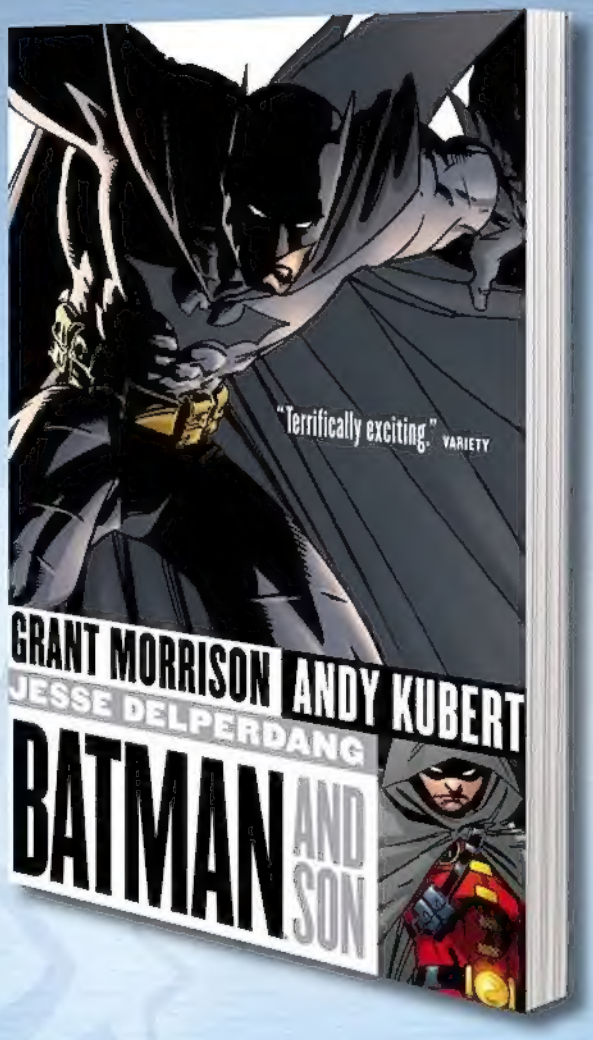
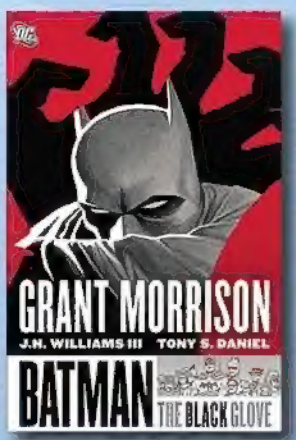


BATMAN: R.I.P.

with **TONY DANIEL**

BATMAN: THE BLACK GLOVE



with **J.H. WILLIAMS III & TONY DANIEL**

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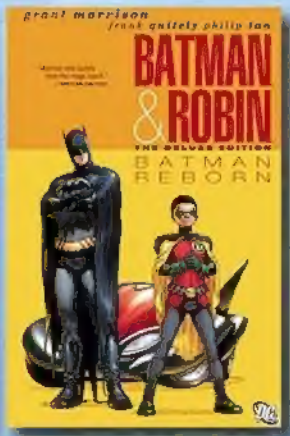

with **FRANK QUITELY & PHILIP TAN**

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